

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 AF-06 ARA-06

EA-06 NEA-10 DIWY-01 DHA-02 CU-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /115 W
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R 021900Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0919

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 1.1652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: CGT'S 39TH CONGRESS

1. SUMMARY. EIGHTY-YEAR-OLD COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED CGT
(CONFEDERATION GENERAL DU TRAVAIL) HELD ITS 39TH
CONGRESS IN LE BOURGET, PARIS 22-27 JUNE. SOME 1517
DELEGATES VOTED UNANIMOUSLY EVERY PROPOSAL MADE BY CGT
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LEADERS AND APPLAUDED RHYTHMICALLY 45 FOREIGN DELEGA-

TIONS (ESPECIALLY CHILE AND VIETNAM), GEORGES SEGUY'S SPEECHES AND THE WORDS "LABOR UNITY AND COMMON PROGRAM". FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF POLICY CGT OFFERED NO SURPRISES EITHER IN TERMS OF LABOR DEMANDS OR ITS DETERMINATION TO HELP THE LEFT COME TO POWER. IN TERMS OF STRATEGY CGT LEADERS ARE EQUALLY DETERMINED TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO MARXIST CATECHISM WHILE PROCLAIMING THAT THEIR ORGANIZATION IS OPEN TO ALL REGARDLESS OF POLITICS. SAK (FINLAND), CGT (LUXEMBOURG), UGTT (TUNISIA) WERE ONLY ICFTU AFFILIATES TO ATTEND CONGRESS.

2. PERHAPS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF THE CONGRESS WAS LARGE PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH AND WOMEN. NO LESS THAN 16 PERCENT OF THE DELEGATES WERE UNDER 25, 34 PERCENT WERE RECRUITED SINCE 1968, AND 25 PERCENT WERE WOMEN. TO FURTHER HIGHLIGHT CGT'S EMPHASIS ON WOMEN, 31 OF THE 94 DELEGATES WHO ADDRESSED THE CONGRESS WERE WOMEN.

3. FIVE THEMES DOMINATED THE 94 SPEECHES: (A) PRIDE IN THE CGT AS FRANCE'S FIRST LABOR ORGANIZATION; (B) UNITY IS FRENCH WORKERS' PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY; (C) TOTAL REJECTION OF GOF AS A CLASS REPRESENTATIVE OF CAPITAL; (D) CRITICISM OF ALL OTHER LABOR FEDERATIONS FOR THEIR REFORMISM (CLASS COLLABORATION) AND FAILURE TO FOLLOW CGT'S LEAD; AND (E) THE LEFT OPPOSITION WITH ITS COMMON PROGRAM PLUS CGT ARE THE ANSWER TO ALL OF FRANCE'S PROBLEMS.

4. SOME MILD CRITICISM WAS ALLOWED TO BE EXPRESSED. IT CAME FROM THE UNIONS OF THE STATISTICAL OFFICE (INSEE) AND OF PRISON PERSONNEL. INSEE PERSONNEL HAVE NOT APPRECIATED THE CGT CRITICISM OF THE INSEE COST OF LIVING INDEX SINCE IT IMPLIED CRITICISM OF THEIR SCIENTIFIC COMPETENCE. IN THE CASE OF THE PRISON PERSONNEL, THEIR COMPLAINT WAS THAT CGT HAD NOT SUPPORTED PRISON PERSONNEL WHEN THEY ARQUED THAT GOF MEASURES TO LIBERALIZE PRISONER TREATMENT UNDERMINDED DISCIPLINE AND PRISON GUARDS' LIVES.

5. THE PRISON PERSONNEL DELEGATE, HOWEVER, WENT A BIT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FURTHER AND CRITICIZED THE COMMON PROGRAM FOR INADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS OF CIVIL LIBERTIES. IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT WHEN SEGUY IN HIS CLOSING SPEECH ATTEMPTED TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE DELEGATES HE IGNORED COMPLETELY THE REMARKS ABOUT LIBERTIES. THE POINT WAS NOT LOST ON THE JOURNALISTS AND THE INCIDENT WAS REPORTED WIDELY IN THE PRESS.

6. THE CONGRESS SERVED TO REAFFIRM CGT'S STRATEGY OF REINFORCING ITS IMAGE AS FRANCE'S LEADING LABOR ORGANIZATION DEVOTED TO EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION OF THE FRENCH WORKER, INSPIRED BY THE CLASS STRUGGLE DOCTRINE AND CONFIDENT THAT THE CURRENT CRISIS OF CAPITALISM WILL BRING THE LEFT TO POWER AND THUS AFFORD CGT THE OPPORTUNITY OF PLAYING A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN "CHANGING LIFE".

7. IN SEEKING TO ACCOMPLISH ITS PURPOSE, CGT REVEALED THE OVERWHELMING PRIORITY IT INTENDS TO GIVE TO ORGANIZING THE YOUNG AND THE WOMEN, NOT ONLY BECAUSE

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THEY REPRESENT AN EASY TARGET BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF THE EFFECT SUCH RECRUITMENT WILL HAVE ON THEIR VOTING PATTERNS, ESPECIALLY OF WOMEN. THE ANALYSIS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS HAVE SHOWN THAT A SUBSTANTIALLY LARGER PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN VOTED FOR GISCARD. CGT OBVIOUSLY BELIEVES IT CAN CORRECT THIS.
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8. THE ELECTIONS. CGT IS REJUVENATING NOT ONLY ITS MEMBERSHIP AND DELEGATES BUT ALSO ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CONFEDERAL BUREAU. THE ELECTIONS BROUGHT INTO THE COMMITTEE 33 NEW FACES OUT OF THE 93 TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, UP FROM 80 IN THE OUTGOING COMMITTEE. THE AVERAGE AGE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DROPPED FROM 48 TO 36. ONE CGT LEADER ADMITTED TO EMBOFF THAT THE EXPANSION OF THE COMMITTEE WAS DICTATED BY THE SIMPLE FACT THAT THERE WERE 93 CANDIDATES FOR IT, ADDING THAT IT WAS "EASIER TO EXPAND THAN TO DISAPPOINT". OBVIOUSLY CGT IS NOT INSENSITIVE TO PRACTICAL POLITICS.

9. THE 16-MEMBER CONFEDERAL BUREAU (ONE MORE THAN THE OUTGOING) INCLUDES FIVE NEW FACES, 4 OF WHICH REPLACE BENOIT FRANCHON (82) ELECTED HONORARY CGT PRESIDENT, LEON MAUVAIS (73), AND JEAN SCHAEFER (63), BOTH RETIRING AND LOUIS CHAILLANT, FORMER WFTU SEC GEN WHO DIED LAST YEAR.

10. WITH REELECTION OF GEORGES SEGUY AS SEC GEN, ENTIRE BUREAU IS COMPOSED OF FOLLOWING, DIVIDED EQUALLY BETWEEN KNOWN PCF MEMBERS AND NON-COMMUNIST:PCF MEMBERS: GEORGES SEGUY, ANDRE ALLAMY, MARCEL CAILLE, CHRISTIANE GILLES, HENRI KRASUCKI, RENE LOMET (NEW), JEAN-LOUIS MOYNOT, MICHEL WARCHOLACK (NEW). NON-COMMUNISTS: ANDRE BARTELOOT, RENE BUHL, RENE DUHAMEL, JOHANES GALLAND (NEW), JACQUELINE LAMBERT, JEAN-CLAUDE LAROZE (NEW), LIVIO MASCARELLO, JEANNIN MAREST (NEW).

11. MORE BY AIRGRAM.
RUSH

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